

New York Tribune.

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McCall and the Band of Spoliators.

Our neighbor "The Evening Sun" is usually ingenious. We therefore expected something better from it when it came to announce its support of Tammany Hall than the ancient plea to the public to defeat Murphy by electing his candidate. Yet here we have again that timeworn face saver which has long served the purpose of "anti-Murphy" newspapers when they find it hard to maintain their self-respect in the company of the boss. Vote for McCall and vote against Murphy "The Evening Sun" advises after weeks of incubation. Evidently it is hard to be original in advising voters to vote to have their pockets picked.

By the way of proving that Mr. McCall is Murphy's deadliest foe our neighbor prints an interview with the candidate. If he has any sword with which to slay the boss he modestly conceals it. He has nothing to say about being the anti-Murphy candidate. Asked whether Tammany is the main issue, he says, heavily and vaguely, that he trusts to be able to meet any misleading, deceptive or fraudulently framed issues.

Tammany, therefore, is a fraudulent issue. Yet Mr. McCall tries very hard to dodge it, and his friends are not able to support him and retain their self-respect without going through the motion of pretending that he, who is Murphy's partner at golf, dinner table companion at Delmonico's, favorite adviser and chosen candidate, is somehow anti-Murphy.

The Tammany issue is not to be put down in the clumsy fashion of "The Evening Sun" or of Mr. McCall. The candidate says that the issue is economy and retrenchment. But immediately everybody asks how can economy and retrenchment come from Tammany Hall? Mayor Gaynor, who knew by four years' experience, called Mr. McCall's sponsors a band of "spoliators" who grew snug and sleek filching from the taxpayers. What does Mr. McCall propose to do to keep them from filching from the taxpayers? He does not disavow them. He merely says that to talk about men whom a Mayor of his own party found from practical experience to be a band of "spoliators" is to raise a fraudulent issue.

What hope is there that he who treats thievery in this timid fashion will be able to keep the thieves' hands out of the public treasury? Mayor Gaynor's band of "spoliators" is a desperate band. It resorts to political blackmail to get its fingers on graft. It denied Mayor Gaynor a renomination because he interfered with its graft. It is clamoring for Sulzer's blood because he interfered with its graft. Mr. McCall is the choice of the man who punished Gaynor and who is punishing Sulzer for their independence. Yet he says the character of his supporters is a fraudulent issue. The character of his supporters is the real issue. A man cannot be chosen representative of a band of "spoliators" without himself lying under suspicion.

The Cosmopolitan Clinic.

The Commissioners of Accounts call attention again to the extent to which New York serves the world in charities. Every year, they tell us, thousands of aliens—that is, immigrants not yet naturalized—are treated free of charge in Bellevue and the Allied Hospitals. The average cost to the city of each such patient is \$21.10, so that the whole expense of such service to non-citizens is a considerable sum.

This is only one item of this city's long roll of benefactions. Many aliens are cared for in other institutions, public and private. In addition, multitudes flock hither from other cities and states of this country for the treatment and for the metropolitan privileges and advantages which New York affords. Our parks, libraries, art galleries, museums and what not are maintained for the good of visitors as well as—at times it seems even more than—for our own people.

New York does not begrudge the fact; nor, indeed, is there any reason why she should. Some bills for the care of aliens, such as that to which attention is now called, should be shared by the nation. But, on the whole, New York is glad to be a cosmopolitan clinic for the ailing and a cosmopolitan business office and pleasure resort and seat of education for those who are well. Besides which, it pays.

A Noteworthy Experiment.

Thomas M. Osborne was probably right in thinking that the average man will regard as "Quixotic" his attempt to gain an insight into prison conditions by undergoing a brief voluntary term of imprisonment at hard labor in the Auburn penitentiary. It is difficult to get the man outside prison walls interested in the fate of the man inside them. Society has been disposed to go its way regardless of what happens to the derelicts who break its laws. The common judgment is that society is concerned merely to get them out of the way for a time, much as dangerous animals are similarly disposed of.

The essence of that theory is that the criminal, once he is convicted, becomes waste human material. He is to be credited to loss on the social ledger and then eliminated from the social and economic equation. But the validity of that assumption is being more and more challenged by modern economists and sociologists, and the time certainly is ripe for a serious effort to discover whether, after all, an excessive waste is not involved in this pessimistic method of dealing with the criminal classes.

Mr. Osborne is entitled to the highest credit for trying to get to the heart of the question by viewing prison life from the inside. He does not assume that one brief personal experience will solve a problem of very long standing. But undoubtedly it will help him greatly in his work as chairman of the State Commission for Prison Reform. Intelligence and sympathy may go a long way toward lighting

up the dark places in our system of criminal administration and putting to a test the growing conviction that a prisoner need not be consigned, from the time he enters prison, to the social scrap heap. Above all, Mr. Osborne is to be commended for the modesty and sincerity with which he enters upon this noteworthy humanitarian experiment.

The Scramble for Broken China.

The answer comes promptly and sharply to Mr. Wilson's policy toward China. He will not use governmental influence in behalf of individual enterprises. Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Japan thereupon exclaim in concert, "But we will!" The powers thereupon fling the quintuple loan agreement into the waste basket and plunge into a sordid scramble for individual advantage.

It is not in the least surprising. Nobody, probably, expected the quintuple pact to be permanently maintained, in spirit. That was one reason for gratification at the withdrawal of America from the original six-power group, unless this country also wanted to become a selfish grabber. Probably it would be too much to expect any nation to forego the opportunity of pushing its own interests ahead of those of its neighbors.

In the present case we are about to see a strenuous scramble for precedence in China, even at the expense of menacing the integrity of that country. There is no technical barring out of American enterprise. But we shall watch with much interest to see what headway American enterprises, without governmental backing, can make against alien competitors who have such backing.

The Young Man Who Yearned for Oxford.

We find it difficult to shed real tears over the young man, aged seventeen, of Cleveland, Ohio, who pined so hard to study at Oxford, England, that he wandered off with some \$1,400 of his employers' money.

A genuine thirst for education is one thing. Without it very few of our great men would have amounted to anything. But education is obtainable in many ways besides going to Oxford, and some of the best of the ways do not require any \$1,400 to bring them within reach. Any number of ambitious young Americans work their way through college every year.

We are very much afraid that the youth in question mistook the trimmings for the reality. What he needs to learn first of all is that no education can be bought at any price—and that hard work and honest resolve will bring a college education within the reach of every young American who deserves it.

Which Is the Swifter Type of Aeroplane?

It is too soon, perhaps, to regard the triumph of the monoplane over the biplane as final. "Nearly all" of the former class of craft, but not quite all, showed a higher speed. Possibly later tests may reveal a practical equality.

A reason for the alleged difference, if it really exists, though, can easily be found. Two sets of surfaces ought to offer more friction with the air than one set. Still, the type of machine with the development of which the Wright brothers were so prominently identified may have some compensating advantage over its rival—greater stability, for instance.

English Relics of Washington.

The progress which is being made with the scheme for the purchase of Sulgrave Manor as a national memorial of Washington is to be regarded with satisfaction. The Washington family was in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries widely scattered throughout England, and there are interesting memorials of it in various places. But Sulgrave was the seat of that branch from which George Washington was descended. In that manor house his paternal great-great-grandparents lived, and in the neighboring parish church those ancestors were buried. Their grandson, John, was the first Washington to come to America, and his grandson, Augustine, was the father of George Washington.

For a British committee to purchase the place and to present it to the American nation would be a singularly gracious and appropriate act, and would be one of the finest conceivable methods of materially marking the completion of a century of peace between the two countries. It would serve as another and lasting reminder of the fact that Washington, while the "father of his country," America, was also one of the greatest Englishmen of his time—British authorities have said the greatest of all. The event would also remove the last traces of the reproach, which has been much exaggerated, that the English people do not feel as kindly toward Americans as Americans do toward them. The gift of Sulgrave would be a supreme seal of mutual good will.

The Tariff Conference Report.

From the viewpoint of Democratic pledges the tariff bill as it emerged yesterday from the conference committee for action in the House of Representatives is an improvement on either the House or the Senate draft. Contrary to custom, the worst mistakes of each branch have been compromised out. Likewise, in contrast with the precedents of the past, the Senate has succeeded in pushing rates a little down rather than considerably up, and after all the splitting of differences which goes on in a conference committee the general average of duties in the completed bill is about 4 per cent lower than it was in the bill as it passed the House.

The Senate was bolder than the House in reducing or abolishing existing duties on food products, many of them largely for mental effect alone. If the cost of food continues to rise and the domestic supply continues to fall off it is evident that the United States will have to go outside its own borders for foodstuffs and that there can be no sound economic reason for taxing their importation. Having gone a certain length in that direction, Congress may soon be compelled to go much further.

Each house sidetracked in conference a number of the other's blunders. The Senate's reactionary anti-free art amendment was killed and its attempt to evade the civil service law in authorizing additional appointments in the internal revenue service was partially frustrated. The obnoxious cotton future amendment was reported with a disagreement, and it will probably go out entirely. On the other hand, the House's foolish provision for a 5 per cent discount on duties on goods brought in by American built and owned ships was modified so as to prevent its affecting any favored nation treaty to which the United States is now a party. It would have been much better to drop this rebate scheme altogether, thus avoiding complications with other maritime nations.

The Senate did a valuable service in forcing the minimum of taxable incomes down from \$4,000 to \$3,000. The lower the minimum the less the danger

of abuses in applying this highly discriminatory form of taxation. The House yielded on the \$1,000 exemption for a married man, but crustily refused to recognize the claims of dependent children on an income. From the point of view of modern public policy this refusal was deplorable. Yet it may be frankly said that the conference report on the whole is a far saner outcome in the way of tariff and revenue legislation than could have been safely anticipated six months ago. When Congress began its labors.

Why don't the London newspapers also elevate our distinguished expatriate, Richard Croker, to the title and dignities of a podesta?

To displace a portrait of old Sam Houston in the Texas Capitol to make room for one of Joe Bailey is much like removing a memorial of Washington to give place to one of Mr. Bryan.

"The Evening Post" on one page announces a discussion of the question why some people cannot spell and on another reports the enlistment of five more among the "simplified spellers." Coincidence?

Another golf links damaged by British militants. If they do it a third time look out for revolution.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Michael de Bernoff, the Russian journalist and lecturer, who came here to study American conditions and methods, likes the United States, he says, but oh, how he does miss his cup of tea! At the end of his lecture at an East Side hall recently he invited the newspaper men who had followed his two-hour address in Russian with mixed emotions to join him in a cup of the fragrant beverage. Great was his surprise when he learned that tea was never served across the bar at one side of the hall. He was profuse in his apologies, however, and was quite certain that had he known his lecture was to attract such attention he would have made arrangements to have tea served. As it was, he made a wry face and compromised by drinking ginger ale.

"What do they mean by altruistic?"
"Well, an altruistic man is one who will buy you a drink without expecting anything in return."—Pittsburgh Post.

Colonel Roosevelt's laconic dismissal of the rumor in Rochester that he would be a candidate for Governor in 1914 brings to mind an incident of Election Day last November. A little before midnight on that memorable occasion Colonel Roosevelt admitted the newspaper men to the house at Sagamore Hill. The returns were sufficiently comprehensive even at that hour to account for the unusual reserve in his greetings. After making a formal statement the colonel asked the reporters to cease their daily visits to his home. "You know," he said, "I feel like the mate in the story of the New Bedford whaler. He and the captain had quarreled violently, and the mate had lost out. 'Hereafter, sir,' said the captain, 'I want out of you is silence, sir; and damned little of that!'"

"The old style politician used to saw wood and say nothing."
"And the new style?"
"He claims he was misquoted, and plays golf."—Washington Herald.

New Jersey farmers are not evincing wild enthusiasm over the advice of the beef packers to raise cattle and other "critters" as a means of averting the threatened meat famine in the United States. "They're glad to have us raise all the hogs we can," said one North Jersey farmer, "provided we sell to them at their own price. That price is so much lower than that it hardly repays us for the cost of the feed we have to buy. If we sell to independent butchers we quickly find that we cannot do any more business with the agents for the packers. It was only last summer, during the time when the busy Jersey hen was glutting the egg market, that we had a first hand demonstration of how far the packers are ready to go to keep their prices up. Their agents went all through this section buying up all the eggs they could. But did they put them on the market and help reduce prices to the consumer? Not much. Instead they destroyed thousands and thousands of dozens of fresh eggs in vacant lots all through this section and around Nyack way. And the result was that eggs stayed up."

"How ever did you get your husband to accompany you to the fall openings? I couldn't get my husband within a mile of one."
"I couldn't before, but I just mentioned casually that living models were being shown this year and then I couldn't keep him away."—Detroit Free Press.



M'CALL SAYS TAMMANY IS A FRAUDULENT ISSUE.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

ON THE "M'AHENY INVASION"

Property Owner and Prospective "Victim" Calls It Confiscatory.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: As an owner of property on one of the avenues threatened with the McAneny invasion, I thank your correspondent, Mr. Lohmann—a very evident partisan of Mr. McAneny—for his quotation from Section 36 of the city charter, "authorizing the Board of Aldermen, upon the consent of the owner of the premises, to permit the erection, within the street line, of booths or stands for the sale of newspapers, fruits, etc."

Could the jurisdiction of owners over the space between the street line and the house line be more clearly shown? Could their right to its use for stoop and area purposes be more firmly established?

There can be no question as to the confiscatory character of Mr. McAneny's "encroachment order," and his action and that of his abettors in the Board of Estimate in seeking to obliterate these area spaces must meet with the condemnation of all house owners and storekeepers in the avenues where it is proposed to enforce the order. It is strange, indeed, that the Board of Health has not intervened to prevent this exclusion of proper ventilation from underground floors.

New York, Sept. 27, 1913. R. H. Q.

NEW OBJECTION TO "LURE"

Employment Agents Strenuously Oppose Present Form of Play.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The employment agents have read in the papers that the indecent scene in the play called "The Lure" has been cut out because of the fifth and an employment agency substituted for the brothel. This is unjust to employment agencies, which are probably, without exception, as moral as any business in the city. There is less immorality in the employment agencies of New York than in doctors' offices or ice cream or hotel parlors. In fact, at present I cannot think of any general line of business better conducted.

When the persons who connected this foul and filthy play arranged it at first they had not thought about employment agencies. Employment agencies were moral enough then. But when the police stopped the play because of its vileness and demoralizing effect and the promoters were threatened with the loss of their dollars unless they modified it, the idea occurred that an employment agency might be substituted. I do not suppose that the promoters of this so-called play have read the recent reports of the Commissioner of Licenses on the conditions of the employment agencies of New York. If so, they might have substituted a grocery store.

I do not suppose that the promoters of this so-called play have read much of anything that contains useful information. All they think of and know is how to get money out of the pockets of those who have a bestial hankering after vulgar and indecency. Of course, we realize that the play was written for those who like filth, and when the worst of the filth is cut out there is very little further to attract any but the prurient minded and those described by the play.

The employment agencies, through the United Employment Agents' Association of Greater New York, are deeply shocked at the slander, and counsel has been consulted in order to see if this nefarious use of a reputable business cannot be enjoined by law.

CHARLES O'CONNOR IRWIN,
President of the United Employment Agents' Association.
New York, Sept. 27, 1913.

REQUEST FOR READING MATTER.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The Hospital Book and Newspaper Society, now entering upon its thirty-ninth working year, begs to call the attention of the public to its urgent need of reading matter of all kinds, more especially illustrated papers and magazines, bound books and foreign literature. The calls come from institutions and mining villages, army posts and lightships, missions, struggling schools and libraries, and our work is much hampered by inability to send them what they want.

We rely upon a public that has never failed to help us fulfil the obligations we

have undertaken and to give out of their abundance. Reading matter should be sent to Room 47, United Charities Building, New York City.

G. L. HOYT, Secretary.
New York, Sept. 27, 1913.

BANK CREDITS AND H. C. OF L.

Correspondent Explains How Prices Rise and Middlemen Thrive.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: To-day's Tribune prints, from its Washington Bureau, thus: "The high cost of living . . . stalked in to-day to perplex still more members of the Banking and Currency Committee. . . . Professor Irving Fisher, of New Haven, warned the committee that the bill in its present shape may, by its inflationary character, boost the cost of living still higher. . . . The extensive development of the credit system of transacting business by check, he said, is responsible for at least half the increase in the cost of living. By the addition of \$500,000,000 of reserve currency, credit will be still further extended and prices will soar still higher."

Prices do not soar, nor are they likely to. Every well informed man who clearly reflects on this matter knows perfectly well that, excepting the prices paid for fresh meats and other fresh foodstuffs, prices for nearly everything necessary to comfortable living are only about half what they were forty years ago, when there was no outcry at all about the high cost of living.

The prices now paid for fresh foods are more than double what they should be or would be were 2,000,000 unnecessary middlemen traders promptly and permanently put out of business that now buy and sell at profits, over and over again, all the food Americans get.

The present high cost of living is popularly attributed to increased prices for necessary things plus increased necessity for exceptional things which were formerly regarded as too luxuriously expensive and therefore not generally had. But this, a compound popular notion characteristically a mental muddle, is wrong in both its features, for the plain everyday starting fact shows that the present actual cost of living is not, in terms of dollars, high; and things not had because they are too luxuriously expensive are altogether so few that they constitute merely a negligible quantity in the lives of most people.

Professor Fisher is unquestionably right in saying that \$500,000,000 additional currency will operate to inflate credit that is already bad in its effects; but this by no means touches the root of this desperately serious matter, for it scarcely struts a ripple over the actually iniquitous depths wherein dwell the wrongs now put upon the masses, wrongs wrought by operations of bank credits—subject-to-check whereby thousands of millions of dollars per annum in fiat money—checks written against bank credit—enables non-producing people to buy whatsoever they please and then, by converting what they thus buy into modicum of real money, effectively prevents that fair and equitable distribution of material substance and current cash which properly belongs, as by natural right, to all our industriously honest citizens.

It also serves to keep more than two million unnecessary middlemen traders in business at buying and selling for profits everything that our real work-a-day people and everybody else should have at less prices.

To-day there are more than 12,000,000 countrybred people subsisting in towns where they and their 10,000,000 children necessarily solely depend on earned money to buy everything they eat, everything they wear, everything they use, everything they get as recreation, instead of dwelling in country homes and tilling fairly comfortable acres; between times being engaged at small mixed occupations such as eighty years ago sufficed to make industrious American country folk thrive, nine out of every ten, and gave health and right enjoyments to children and young people none of whom ever had a dollar, simply because their proper needs the whole year around were all more or less fully supplied without cash.

ALFRED LAURENS BRENNAN.
New York, Sept. 26, 1913.

BRYAN CHEATING UNCLE SAM

Correspondent Thinks He Must Neglect Public Duties.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I read this morning with interest the communication from Bertha Mapes, printed in to-day's Tribune, in defence of Mr. Bryan and his Chautauqua lectures.

According to Mr. Bryan's own statement, the salary paid him by the government is insufficient for his needs. That being so, and the matter of civic duty not entering into his calculations, Mr. Bryan should not have accepted the portfolio of Secretary of State. In accepting engagements to lecture Mr. Bryan is stealing the people's time and using it to line his own pockets. Looking at it from the practical viewpoint, it narrows down to this—that a man is being employed by a certain corporation at a salary of \$12,000 a year to perform the duties of one of its greatest officers. That man, instead of performing his duties, leaves them to be performed by understrappers, or not to be done at all, and accepts employment from somebody else, at the same time accepting the salary from the corporation.

The opinion of Mr. Bryan entertained by the people, as exhibited when he ran for President, seems to be vindicated, and the only conclusion to be drawn from Mr. Bryan's present conduct is that he is cheating Uncle Sam and obtaining a salary which he is not earning.

F. S. CASTLE.
Lyndhurst, N. J., Sept. 27, 1913.

WILSON NOT TOTAL ABSTAINER

Misrepresented, Says Correspondent, at Milan Congress on Alcoholism.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Cable information recently from Milan, Italy, relative to the fourteenth International Congress on Alcoholism told us that the Rev. Edwin C. Dinwiddie, national legislative superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, made an address in which he said "that both President Wilson and Vice-President Marshall were total abstainers."

Annually the United States government appropriates \$5,000 to send an American delegation to these temperance congresses when held abroad. Just what benefit our people and government derive from these junket trips has not been apparent, since the internal revenue figures show a steady rise in the nation's annual drink bill. I know nothing about the bibulous habits of the Vice-President. As to the President himself, there is the statement of Dudley Field Malone, who was as close to Professor Wilson in his Presidential campaign as any other one man who made up the then Governor's campaigning retinue. At the annual dinner of the American Wine Growers' Association, held in New York City February 27, 1913, as reported in The Tribune, Mr. Malone was one of the speakers. His subject was "The Political Vintage," during the discussion of which he told of his experiences campaigning with Professor Wilson. He said:

"It was in Milwaukee that I first heard the rumor that Governor Wilson was a prohibitionist. Men in public life are often misrepresented, and it is a good idea to some men that they are. When I heard that rumor I happened to know that at the moment Governor Wilson was sitting in the cafe of the Fabst hostelry drinking a Scotch whisky."

Why Mr. Dinwiddie should find it necessary to misrepresent the President to the world on a matter that is strictly private and personal is a matter worthy of consideration by those having the appointment of the delegates who represent this country at this particular congress next year.

TRUE TEMPERANCE.
Newark, N. J., Sept. 27, 1913.